

The Life Story of --

MARY ELMA ECKEL, 99

SHELBY — Mary Elma Eckel, daughter of Galen and Frances Hildebrand Smith, was born Feb. 7, 1875 in White Pigeon, Ia., and died Mar. 20, 1974 in Myrtue Memorial hospital at age 99 years and 41 days. The Smith family moved by covered wagon to Hancock, when Mary was eight years old. There she grew to womanhood and began her teaching career. On Mar. 3, 1896, she married Richard Eckel. In 1904 they moved to their farm two miles southwest of Shelby. This union was blessed with seven children. They were privileged to celebrate their golden wedding before the death of Mr Eckel on July 9, 1947. Mrs Eckel moved to Shelby afterwards.

She was preceded in death by her parents and four sisters, a son - Thornton and a daughter - Florence; five grandchildren and one great grandchild. Survivors include her sister - Letha Murphy of Tabor, and two brothers - Everette and Francis Smith of Ankeny, her children - Clyde of Herman, Nebr., Stanley, Edna (Mrs Jesse Pike); Helen (Mrs Clarence McKnabb) and Dwight all of Shelby; by ten great-great grandchildren and other relatives.